

Kyrgyz people to strengthen democratic institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic, which will provide the foundation for political stability in the Kyrgyz Republic;

Whereas the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic value a good relationship;

Whereas the United States provides humanitarian assistance, nonlethal military assistance, and assistance to support economic and political reforms as part of the democratic transition process in the Kyrgyz Republic; and

Whereas security in the Kyrgyz Republic remains a top concern of the United States due to its strong support of the United States in the global war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the official resignation of Askar Akayev as President of the Kyrgyz Republic;

(2) acknowledges and welcomes the close relationship formed between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic since it declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 31, 1991;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Kyrgyz Republic;

(4) urges the continuation of strong support for democratic reform, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, in the Kyrgyz Republic;

(5) urges the interim government in the Kyrgyz Republic to move swiftly toward the democratic government ratified by the Kyrgyz people by holding free, fair, and transparent presidential elections on July 10, 2005, and by ensuring that the new parliament in the Kyrgyz Republic represents the choice of the Kyrgyz people; and

(6) urges the people of the Kyrgyz Republic to take advantage of the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to expand its assistance in preparing for free and fair presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic as the foundation of political legitimacy and stability in the Kyrgyz Republic.

#### NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 112, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 112) designating the third week of the April, 2005, as National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD: Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator ALEXANDER, in support of the resolution the Senate has passed to proclaim the third week of April of 2005 as Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week. I would like to recognize the many groups, particularly the National Shaken Baby Coalition and the SKIPPER Initiative, who support this effort to increase awareness of one of the most devastating forms of child abuse, one that results in the death or lifelong disability of too many children each year.

We must recognize child abuse and neglect as the public health problem it

is, one that is linked with a host of other problems facing our country and one that needs the comprehensive approach of our entire public health system to solve. The month of April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month as an annual tradition that was initiated in 1979 by former President Jimmy Carter. In 2005, April will again be National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The tragedy of child abuse is well documented. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, NCANDS, almost 900,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2002, causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens. Each day, nearly four of these children die as a result of this abuse. Most experts are certain that cases of child abuse and neglect are in fact underreported.

Very young children are particularly vulnerable to the pain of child abuse and neglect. In 2002, children age 1 and younger accounted for 41.2 percent of child abuse and neglect deaths in 2002, and children age 4 and younger accounted for 76.1 percent of all child abuse and neglect deaths.

Abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as shaken baby syndrome, is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children, especially young children. Shaken baby syndrome is a totally preventable form of child abuse that results from a caregiver losing control and shaking a baby, usually an infant who is less than 1 year old. This severe shaking can kill the baby, or it can cause loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, and seizures, resulting in lifelong disabilities and causing untold grief for many families. If a child survives shaken baby syndrome, the resulting medical costs to care for a single, disabled child in just the first few years of life may exceed \$1,000,000.

Too many families have experienced the pain of shaken baby syndrome. A 2003 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimates that, in the United States, an average of 300 children will die each year, and 600 to 1,200 more will be injured, of whom  $\frac{2}{3}$  will be babies or infants under 1 year in age, as a result of shaken baby syndrome. Medical professionals believe that thousands more cases of shaken baby syndrome are being misdiagnosed or not detected.

Families should be spared the needless tragedy of shaken baby syndrome. The most effective solution to ending Shaken Baby Syndrome is to prevent such abuse, and it is clear that the minimal costs of educational and prevention programs may help to protect our young children and stop this tragedy from occurring. In 1995, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect recommended a universal approach to the prevention of child fatalities that would reach out to all families through the implementation of several key strategies. Such efforts

began by providing services such as home visitation by trained professionals or paraprofessionals, hospital-linked outreach to parents of infants and toddlers, community-based programs designed for the specific needs of neighborhoods, and effective public education campaigns.

Prevention programs like the ones recommended by the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and how they can help protect their child from injury can bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases of shaken baby syndrome. In 1998, Dr. Mark Dias started the Upstate New York SBS Prevention Project at Children's Hospital of Buffalo. It uses a simple 11-minute video to educate new parents before they leave the hospital. Since that time, the number of shaken baby incidents in the Buffalo area has dropped by nearly 50 percent: none of the perpetrators have been identified as participants in the hospital education program. Hospitals around the country, including several in my own State of Connecticut, have adopted programs similar to these to educate new parents about the dangers of shaking young children.

I urge the Senate to adopt this resolution designating the third week of April of 2005 and 2006 as National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week, and to take part in the many local and national activities and events recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The prevention of shaken baby syndrome is supported by advocacy groups across the United States that were formed by parents and relatives of children who have been killed or injured by shaking. I ask unanimous consent that a list of groups supporting this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### GROUPS SUPPORTING "NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK"

The National Shaken Baby Coalition  
The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome  
The Children's Defense Fund  
The American Academy of Pediatrics  
The Child Welfare League of America Prevent Child Abuse America  
The National Child Abuse Coalition  
The National Exchange Club Foundation  
The American Humane Association  
The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
The Arc of the United States  
The Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty  
Family Partnership  
Family Voices  
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds  
United Cerebral Palsy  
The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions  
Never Shake a Baby Arizona/Prevent Child Abuse Arizona  
The Center for Child Protection and Family Support